

**LWVME BOARD MEETING –August 10, 2012**  
**Searsport cottage**

**Present:** Barbara McDade, Ann Luther, Anne Schink, Colleen Tucker, Cathie Whittenburg, Martha Dickinson, Polly Ferguson, Jill Ward, Sarah Walton

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Barbara, and the Minutes of the April and May meetings were approved. The Secretary is gently encouraged to post the minutes to the LWVME website.

Ann reviewed the Treasurer's reports with us, which were filed for audit. Our spring fundraising appeal was a success, but we are still running behind on fundraising. The Board members conducted an impromptu internal fundraiser at the meeting to pay for the Portland League's PMP obligation.

Email votes: 1.) to approve the revised Candidate Debate Policy for LWVME and the Ed Fund, and  
2.) to approve the revised Fundraising Policy for the LWVME and Ed Fund.

**Board Operations & Governance**

The Board discussed our agreement to participate in the **LWVUS dues collection program** and expressed concern over the fact that membership renewals weren't being sent out as anticipated, due to some hold up at LWVUS.

The Board agreed to combine the Membership Committee and the Fundraising Committee into one Development Committee.

The Board brainstormed about potential new State Board members to solicit. We are losing our beloved Sarah Walton to a calling to the Atlanta, Georgia area, where she will be pursuing her passion for social justice. We will miss her spirit, brainpower and contributions to our efforts tremendously. The Board also acknowledges that no one can solicit new Board members like she can!!

Ann Luther offered to set up a Google doc for Board members to track progress with outreach to new potential Board members. Various Board members promised to contact certain potential members.

The following Committees were self-selected by the Board members:

**Development Committee:** Jill Ward (Chair); Cathie Whittenburg and Colleen Tucker

**Advocacy Committee:** Ann Luther (Chair); Polly Ferguson and Martha Dickinson

**Voters Service Committee:** Polly Ferguson (Chair); Martha Dickinson and Barbara McDade

**Communication Committee:** Martha Dickinson (Chair); Ann Luther, Jill Ward and Cathie Whittenburg.

**As a reminder:** the **LWVME Nominating Committee** for 2013 State Convention slate of LWVME Officers/ Board members. Sarah Robinson has agreed to be on the Nominating Committee, along with Sarah Walton and Martha Dickinson. Barbara will ask a Bangor area representative to be on the Committee, as well. With the loss of Sarah, we may need to augment this Committee.

**Calendar:** the following Board meetings were established: September 28<sup>th</sup>; November 30<sup>th</sup>; January 25<sup>th</sup>, March 22, and May 24, 2013. Meetings will start at 10:00 a.m. and we will try to find a meeting location in the Augusta area.

### **Advocacy**

Ann L. reported on this past legislative session's activities surrounding Voter ID (which we oppose) and the national efforts around the DISCLOSE Act (which we support). As a result of the failed attempt to legislatively approve Voter ID laws in Maine, the Governor has set up a Commission to Study the Conduct of Elections in Maine. The Commission will be conducting public hearings across the State and the Board agreed to aggressively solicit participation at these hearings. Testimony is being prepared and speakers lined up. The League will be monitoring these hearings closely.

### **Fundraising and Membership**

Membership Plan/ Coaching effort is underway with calls set up with Kate Rader, our State Coach. Anne Schink, Jill, Sarah, Martha, Polly and Ann L. have participated in calls.

Jill Ward offered to revise and circulate the Development Plan amongst the newly formed Development Committee.

**Portland Local League:** Portland has set up a series of meetings around various topics. These are all posted to the LWVME website calendar and will be circulated via Facebook when they occur.

**Bangor Local League:** Barbara reports no activity lately; the Downeast League will reach out to Bangor area members to encourage their participation in Downeast events.

**Downeast League:** Ann is participating in a series of radio shows on WERU focusing on government issues.

### **Program**

Ann Luther and Jill Ward reported on the activities of the LWVUS's **Campaign Finance Reform and Disclosure** task force.

The Board discussed the **LWVUS Study** to update/augment our national **Agriculture** policy. Colleen mentioned that new member Lorraine Glowczak of So. Portland is very interested in engaging in this study.

### **ED Fund Requests:**

MOVED, seconded, and approved to recommend to the ED FUND that we spend \$250 to co-sponsor a US Senatorial debate to be held in Portland on October 4, 2012.

The LWVME Board meeting adjourned at 1:22 pm to convene the ED FUND meeting and reconvened at 2:40 pm.

### **Coalitions:**

**Maine Marriage Coalition** – is very active. Colleen will forward emails and a League intro soliciting League members’ participation in the various “asks” of the Coalition, including providing housing to “Volunteer Vacationers” coming to Maine to work for the Coalition and soliciting point persons in various areas of the State to set up meetings for the “Conversation Training program” being offered by the Coalition.

The Board discussed who we might ask to join the Board and be nominated to represent LWVME on the board of **MFOIC**. In the end, Barbara agreed to be our representative to MFOIC.

Due to her election to the LWVUS Board, Anne Schink has had to step down as LWVME’s representative on the **Coalition for Maine Women** and the **Choice Coalition**. The Board needs to fill these positions. Cathie Whittenburg volunteered to represent us there.

**Voter Service:**

**Forum in a Box** discussed for use in Aroostook County. Ann Luther, Barbara McDade and Anne Schink offered to moderate in Fort Kent, Presque Isle, and Houlton events.

**As a reminder: AARP** – has asked LWVME to partner with it on some election-related events and Ann L. and Barbara will be calling their representative to discuss. Colleen was going to pull up the email from a national insurance company which wants to conduct voter registration efforts at their places of business in Maine, NH, CT, etc.

The Board adjourned at 3:20 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,

Colleen P. Tucker  
Secretary

## **LWVME & LWVME EDUCATION FUND FUNDRAISING POLICY**

(Amended and re-adopted by LWVME and LWVME Education Fund 2/9/2012)

Fundraising using the LWVME/LWVME Education Fund name is directed toward advancing League or Education. Fund organizational goals and program priorities and, in the case of the Education Fund, is to be consistent with its tax-exempt purposes.

LWVME board members or Education Fund trustees, in their League capacity or in their work for other organizations, shall not use the LWVME member list to solicit donations to other organizations except as explicitly approved for LWVME/LWVME Education Fund directed activities.

The LWVME board/LWVME Education Fund trustees can, at anytime, consider giving a direct financial contribution from LWVME/LWVME Education Fund to a partner organization if our financial situation permits and, in the case of the Education Fund, if the contribution is consistent with its tax-exempt purposes.

The League of Women Voters of Maine and the LWVME Education Fund protect sensitive member/donor information from misappropriation. The member/donor database is posted online and password protected for use by board members and trustees only. The member/donor database does not store credit card information, birth date, or social security number.